

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSC-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 AID-05

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P 031311Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1391

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 3749

E.O. 16052: N/A

SUBJECT: CELESTINO RODRIGO CONFIRMED AS ECONOMY MINISTER

REF: BUENOS AIRES 3608

1. IN CEREMONY THIS MORNING (JUNE 2), CELESTINO RODRIGO WAS OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED AS NEW ECONOMSOMINISTER REPLACING DR. GOMEZ MORALES. CELESTINO RODRIGO IS SCHEDULED TO MAKE RADIO AND TV ADDRESS TO NATION THIS EVENING.

2. THERE IS NO CONFIRMED INFORMATION YET REGARDING OTHER APPOINTMENTS IN ECONOMIC TEAM. ACCORDING TO PRESS, MAGY MEMBERS OF DR. GOMEZ MORALES' STAFF WILL BE RETAINED, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING. NEW APPOINTMENTS CONSIDERED LIKELY AT THIS TIME ARE RICADO ZINN, SECRETARY OF ECONOMIC PROGRAMMING AND COORDINATION, TO REPLACE ANTONIO LOPEZ, AND HERNAN ALDABE, FORMERLY CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT, TO RPLACE OVIDIO VENTURA OR SECRETARY OF INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE AND NEGOTIATION.

3. NEW ECONOMIC TEAM UNDER CELESTIONO RODRIGO WILL LIKELY IMPLEMENT SERIES OF IMPORTANT MEESURES IN VERY NEAR FUTURE RELATING TO WAGE, PRICES AND EXCHANGE RATE. RESULTS OF COLLECTIVE WAGE BARGAINING SESSION (PARITARIAS) NOW VIRTUALLY COMPLETED AND LIKELY BE APPROVED VERY HORTLY. WAGE INCREASES WILL BE 38 PERCENT IN MOST CASES ACCORDING TO UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESS. ALONG WITH WAGE HIKES, PRICES OF MOST PUBLIC SECTOR SERVICES WILL ALSO HAVE TO BE RAISED SHORTLY. IN FACT, PROSPECT OF VERY SIGNIFICANT PRICE HIKES FOR GAS HAS CAUSED MAJOR TIE-UP AT SERVICE STATIONS OVER LAST SEVERAL DAYS. DEVALUATION ALSO LIKELY BE ANNOUNCED ANYTIME--POSSIBLY IN SPEECH BY ECONOMY MINISTER THIS EVENING.

4. PRESS NOW FULL OF SPECULATION THAT SHIFT OF ECONOMY MINISTER ONLY ONE PART OF MORE WIDESPREAD CABINET CHANGES WHICH UNDER CONSIDERATION.
MONTLLOR

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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